

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 9003

By Walley

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Deputy Matthew Stephen Locke of the Hardin County Sheriff's Department.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their own concerns to ensure our collective freedom and personal safety; in providing for the domestic tranquility of the community as a whole, society recognizes the need for a system of laws; and

WHEREAS, the enforcement of the law has been entrusted to a small number of dedicated individuals who face daily the rigors of human conflict in protecting those whom they so selflessly serve; and

WHEREAS, the people of Tennessee are fortunate to be served by the brave and dedicated law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line while carrying out their essential duties; and

WHEREAS, Deputy Matthew Stephen Locke of the Hardin County Sheriff's Department was one such outstanding and heroic public servant, and we were greatly saddened to learn of his untimely death in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, a Hardin County native, Deputy Matthew Locke was born in Selmer on March 6, 1991, and graduated from Hardin County High School in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Deputy Locke proudly served his nation as a member of the 268th Military Police Company of the U.S. Army National Guard and was deployed to Afghanistan from May 2013 to February 2014; and

WHEREAS, he began his law enforcement career as a correctional officer with the McNairy County Sheriff's Department in 2014 and rose to the rank of deputy in 2015; and

WHEREAS, after a brief period as a patrolman in Adamsville, Deputy Locke served as a successful military recruiter in Memphis for several months before returning home to join the Hardin County Sheriff's Department; and

WHEREAS, on the night of September 25, 2021, Deputy Matthew Locke was assisting another deputy regarding a domestic disturbance call when he was senselessly fired upon; Deputy Locke ultimately succumbed to the injuries he sustained while serving and protecting his community with honor and distinction; and

WHEREAS, Deputy Matthew Locke leaves behind the love of his life, Natasha Sagely, and her son, Dakota; his daughter, Riley Rouge Locke; his parents, Lisa and Galen Benson and Lee and Kevin Locke; his siblings, Bobby Kenneth Locke, Autumn Nicole Locke, Jake Benson, Nathan Allen Mizell, and Jessika Nichole Mizell; his grandparents, Mary Sanford, and her husband, Gary, Bobbie Locke, Wanda Kay Roberts, and Otha Ray Benson; and a host of aunts and uncles, including Tim Locke; and

WHEREAS, Deputy Locke is also survived by his best friend, Kevin Thompson, his shift partner, James Damron, and all of his law enforcement and National Guard brothers; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his grandparents, Kenneth Eugene Foust and Doris Benson, and his great-grandmother, Cordie Bonee; and

WHEREAS, Deputy Matthew Locke leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity, probity, and valor in his public life as a law enforcement officer and member of the National Guard, compassion and loyalty in private life, and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause in their deliberations to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Deputy Matthew Stephen Locke of the Hardin County Sheriff's Department, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Deputy Locke.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.